



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Proclaims Emergency Medical Services Week and EMS for Children Day in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor Jack Dalrymple has proclaimed May 18 to 24, 2014, as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week in North Dakota, and May 21 as Emergency Medical Services for Children Day.

This year's events honor the more than 5,000 personnel who serve the state's emergency medical services (EMS) system and call attention to special issues regarding medical emergencies in children.

"EMS: Dedicated. For Life." is the theme of EMS week and honors the commitment made by North Dakota EMS providers who serve their communities. "Emergency medical services are an integral part of North Dakota's health-care system," said Tom Nehring, director of the Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma for the North Dakota Department of Health. "These dedicated and determined emergency workers help to ensure the health, protection and physical well-being of all North Dakotans. They are heroes every day."

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Emergency Medical Services for Children Day highlights the unique emergency care needs of children and emphasizes the importance of properly trained emergency personnel, appropriately equipped ambulances and emergency departments, and well-defined pediatric treatment procedures. This year's observance marks 30 years of celebrating the national Emergency Medical Services for Children program. The theme of this year's event is "Then, Now, Imagine...Honoring the Past, Experiencing the Present, Visualizing the Future."

"North Dakota's emergency personnel are dedicated to ensuring that children receive the best possible care," said Elizabeth Pihlaja, North Dakota EMS for Children program manager. "Their tireless efforts to help children lead full, healthy, and productive lives are a service to us all, and should be celebrated."

The members of emergency medical services teams, both pre-hospital and in-hospital, are highly trained specialists ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Emergency medical services systems dramatically improve the survival and recovery rate of people who experience sudden illness or injury, and EMS personnel are dedicated to saving lives through injury prevention, safety awareness and emergency preparedness.

For more information about Emergency Medical Services Week, contact Tom Nehring, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4728. For more information about Emergency Medical Services for Children Day, contact Elizabeth Pihlaja, Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Manager, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2953.

Please note: Proclamations follow. Photo is attached.

PROCLAMATION
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK
MAY 18-24, 2014

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's emergency medical services system consists of physicians, nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services team members, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 18-24, 2014, **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK** in the state of North Dakota.

PROCLAMATION
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN DAY
MAY 21, 2014

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services for Children supports emergency medical services, the community-based public service that is vital to children in need; and

WHEREAS, the needs of children are different than the needs of adults in medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services for Children promotes the high-level emergency care given by emergency medical services providers with pediatric emergency skills; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services for Children assists in the implementation of training programs and guidelines for emergency care providers and the use of advanced technical equipment and services; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services for Children works with physicians, nurses, social workers, psychologists, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others to identify and address the issues surrounding the provision of optimal pediatric care; and

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Services for Children Day is a time to recognize the value and accomplishments of the men and women who have dedicated their lives to saving our children.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 21, 2014, **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN DAY** in the state of North Dakota.